

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 231201Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5279

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 01734

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, MPOL, MARR, UN, UR, AU

SUBJECT: KREISKY ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: A) MOSCOW 2020, B) VIENNA 1104

1. CHANCELLOR KREISKY BRIEFED ME FEBRUARY 17 ON HIS RECENT WORKING TRIP TO MOSCOW (FEBRUARY 6-8). HE WAS IN EXPANSIVE MOOD AND TALKED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT HIS IMPRESSIONS OF HIS MEETINGS WITH BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN. FOCUS OF MEETINGS WITH KOSYGIN WAS LARGELY ON BILATERAL TRADE MATTERS. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WITH BREZHNEV INCLUDED HUMAN RIGHTS, BELGRADE CSCE CONFERENCE, DISARMAMENT, AND THE MIDDLE EAST. SUMMARY OF SUBSTANCE OF KREISKY'S COMMENTS FOLLOWS.

2. BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS: AS NOTED IN REFTELS, KREISKY'S MAIN PURPOSE IN GOING TO MOSCOW WAS TO GET AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FROM SOVIET LEADERSHIP TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT LARGE AND GROWING AUSTRIAN TRADE DEFICIT WITH USSR. ACCORDING TO KREISKY, DEFICIT AMOUNTED TO 3.5
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BILLION SCHILLINGS IN 1977 AND IS EXPECTED TO REACH 6 BILLION SCHILLINGS IN 1980, UNLESS COUNTERMEASURES ARE TAKEN. KREISKY NOTED TO KOSYGIN THAT DEFICIT IS DUE IN PART TO MAJOR IMPORTS BY AUSTRIA OF SOVIET OIL AND NATURAL GAS, AND IN PART TO STAGNATION IN LEVEL OF SOVIET IMPORTS FROM AUSTRIA. (KREISKY ATTRIBUTES LATTER SITUATION TO FACT THAT AUSTRIA LOST OUT IN RECENT YEARS ON NUMBER OF

MAJOR REORDERS WHICH, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, WENT TO OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY FINLAND.)

3. TO REMEDY SITUATION KREISKY SUGGESTED INCREASED SOVIET IMPORTS FROM AUSTRIA AND JOINT PROJECTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES. KOSYGIN, WHO WAS WELL BRIEFED ON SUBJECT, EXPRESSED "SOME UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY" FOR AUSTRIA'S PREDICAMENT. KREISKY FEELS HE SUCCESSFULLY LAID GROUND-WORK FOR POSITIVE SOVIET ACTION ON THIS MATTER. IN LATTER CONNECTION, SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO RECEIVE HIGH-LEVEL AUSTRIAN TRADE DELEGATION IN MARCH WHICH, ACCORDING TO KREISKY, SHOULD BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE SOME ARRANGEMENTS TO REDUCE TRADE DEFICIT. (COMMENT: WE FEEL THAT CHANCELLOR'S ACCOUNT OF PROSPECTS FOR REDUCING TRADE BALANCE IS SOMEWHAT OVERSTATED.)

4. CHANCELLOR DID NOT MENTION ANY DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SOVIET STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE OR SPENT FUEL FOR AUSTRIANS.

5. KREISKY, WHO HAS KNOWN KOSYGIN SINCE THE EARLY 1950'S IN CONNECTION WITH NEGOTIATING 1955 AUSTRIAN STATE TREATY, DESCRIBED KOSYGIN AS BEING DECISIVE, ARTICULATE, AND IN EXCELLENT HEALTH.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS: IN TANGENTIAL DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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BREZHNEV, KREISKY CAME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION THAT SOVIET LEADERSHIP IS MORE RELAXED NOW ABOUT DISSIDENT MOVEMENT WITHIN USSR AND SEEMS TO FEEL THAT ITS IMPACT IS WANING. KREISKY NOTED TO BREZHNEV THAT GOOD AUSTRIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS SHOULD NOT BE HAMPERED BY GOA RAISING WITH USSR IN FUTURE, AS IT HAS DONE IN THE PAST, SPECIFIC HUMANITARIAN CASES. CHANCELLOR ARGUED THAT SUCH AN APPROACH IS NECESSARY FOR AUSTRIA AS NEUTRAL IF IT IS TO BE ABLE IN FUTURE TO GET ACTION ON HUMANITARIAN CASES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, E.G., CHILE AND ARGENTINA.

7. BELGRADE CSCE CONFERENCE: ACCORDING TO KREISKY, COMMENTS BY KOSYGIN AND BREZHNEV SUGGEST SOVIET LEADERSHIP IS NOT INTERESTED AT THIS TIME IN REAL PROGRESS ON DETENTE. THEY CLEARLY WANT FOCUS TO BE ON GENERALIZED "HELSINKI ACCOMPLISHMENTS" AND NOT ON CURRENT FOLLOW-UP BELGRADE CONFERENCE OR POSSIBLE FUTURE ONE AT MADRID. SOVIET LINE OF ARGUMENTATION WAS THAT PLENTY OF PROGRESS HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED ON "PRINCIPLES OF DETENTE" AND THAT NOW IS TIME FOR BILATERAL RPT BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT SPECIFIC ITEMS. SOVIETS HAVE LESS REGARD FOR MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES (TO WHICH THEY IMPUTE LITTLE

VALUE) THAN FOR BILATERAL MEETINGS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH
LARGE NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS.

8. NEUTRON BOMB: KREISKY'S COMMENTS ON NEUTRON BOMB WERE
ALONG LINES OF PARA 4 OF MOSCOW'S 2020. KREISKY USED
OCCASION TO QUERY BREZHNEV ON OUTLOOK FOR MBFR TALKS,
INDICATING THAT PUBLIC, AFTER ALMOST FIVE YEARS, WAS
GROWING WEARY OF LACK OF PROGRESS IN MBFR DISCUSSIONS AND
THAT SOME REAL FORWARD MOVEMENT ON SUBJECT WAS NECESSARY
IF DETENTE IS TO BE MAINTAINED. BREZHNEV GAVE
NONCOMMITTAL RESPONSE.

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9. CYPRUS: NEITHER SIDE SPOKE SUBSTANTIVELY ON ISSUE,
ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOTED AT SOVIET REQUEST IN COMMUNIQUE.

10. MIDDLE EAST: SOVIET REACTIONS TO KREISKY'S POSITIVE
COMMENTARY ON SADAT'S EFFORTS IN MIDDLE EAST WERE WHOLLY
NEGATIVE. KREISKY FEELS SOVIETS ARE ANXIOUS TO ASSUME
MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS. THEY
PREFER A COMPROMISE AND NOT A DEFINITIVE MIDDLE EAST
SETTLEMENT SINCE FORMER SITUATION ASSURES CONTINUED
OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPLOITATION. SOVIET LEADERS SEEM
AMBIVALENT TOWARD U.S. ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.
ACCORDING TO KREISKY, THEY DESIRE NO NEW CONFRONTATION
WITH U.S. BUT AT SAME TIME, BY GIVING LIBYANS AND IRAQIS
AND OTHER RADICAL ARAB ELEMENTS NEW WEAPONS AND POLITICAL
SUPPORT, ARE SEEMINGLY MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION. IN
COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST, SOVIET LEADERS ALSO

REGISTERED THEIR CONTINUED STRONG INTEREST IN GENEVA
MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE, PROVIDED SUCH A CONFERENCE WERE
WELL PREPARED AND HAD GOOD PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS. WOLF

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